

Message Text

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TO USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115887

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABABA 6223 ACTION DEPT INFO ATHENS KHARTOUM
OTTAWA ASMARA JUNE 3RD

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6223

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJ: TENNECO SEVEN

REFS: ADDIS 6047

1. IN COURSE REEVALUATION (REF ADDIS 6047) CONDUCTED IN
PRESENCE TENNECO'S BOGAN PRIOR TO MY MEETING WITH FONMIN
JUNE 2 (REF ADDIS 6222), EMBASSY CONSIDERED FOLLOWING LIST
OF CHANNELS ACTUALLY OR POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE TO US FOR
NEGOTIATION RELEASE TENNECO SEVEN: (A) DIRECT BROADCAST
BY IEG TO ELF; (B) MORGHANI; (C) BURTCHAEEL/YASUWORK; (D)
ELF/GC'S ZEIN; (3) ELF/GC'S OFFICEIN DAMASCUS; (F) MISSION-
ARIES IN ERITREA; (G) YASUWORK'S SHEIK(S).

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2. WE REACHED FOLLOWING TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS. MISSION-

ARIES HAD INCENTIVE AND CONTACTS LOCALLY AND WERE EAGER TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION. TENNECO AGREEABLE LET THEM DO SO. MISSIONARIES PREPARED PROCEED PROVIDING TENNECO CEASED ITS EFFORTS IN ERITREA (BUT NOT ELSEWHERE) SECURE RELEASE OF CAPTIVES. THIS SHOULD PROCEED.

3. MORGHANI COULD NOT BE IGNORED AS HE AND HIS PEOPLE OBVIOUSLY ASTRIDE COMMUNICATIONS FROM CAPTIVES. WE SHOULD LAY GROUNDWORK FOR LATER DECISION USE HIM IF THIS SEEMED BEST ALTERNATIVE (CF. ADDIS 5576, PARA 3). USE OF MARGHANI SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL WE HAD FURTHER READING RESULTS MISSIONARIES' EFFORTS AND KNOW MORE ABOUT POTENTIAL OF ZEIN. THIS PARTICULARLY NECESSARY SINCE FURTHER RECOURSE TO MORGHANI UNLIKELY COMMEND ITSELF TO TENNECO AT THI STAGE, VIZ. WHILE OTHER CHANNELS SEEMED EQUALLY IF NOT MORE PROMISING.

4. ZEIN APPEARS HAVE ACCESS. HIS ARTICULATION ELF/GC'S DEMANDS MORE MODERATE AND FLEXIBLE THAN THOSE COMING TO US IN LETTERS SEEKING REINSTITUTE MORGHANI AS GO-BETWEEN. IF BURTCHAELL/YASUWORK EFFORTS CURRENTLY IN COURSE ABORT, THERE NO REASON WHY ZEIN SHOULD NOT BE ASKED PRODUCE A CAPTIVE AS INDICATION HIS AUTHENTICITY/EFFECTIVENESS AS ELF/GC NEGOTIATOR. SAME REQUEST MIGHT, IN DUE COURSE, ALSO BE PUT TO MORGHANI. ZEIN MIGHT WELL PROVE ABLE TO PRODUCE WHILE MORGHANI MIGHT NOT. DISPARITY IN DATES BETWEEN CAPTIVES' CORRESPONDENCE FORWARDED UNDER COVER OF LETTERS TOUTING MORGHANI, WHICH INVARIABLY DATED MUCH LATER, STILL RAISES QUESTION MORGHANI'S ACCESS TO CAPTOR-GROUP AND ENGENDERS SUSPICION HE MERELY INTERCEPTING CORRESPONDENCE AUTHORIZED BY CAPTORS AND RETRANSMITTING IT IN WAY DESIGNED FURTHER HIS OWN PURPOSES. IN SHORT, MORGHANI STILL LOOKS AS IF HE MAY NOT RPT NOT HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO CAPTORS.

5. DAMASCUS. GIVEN LIKELIHOOD FAILURE BURTCHAELL/YASUWORK OBTAIN RELEASE OF CAPTIVES APOLITICALLY, AND RELATED LIKELIHOOD TENNECO MAY HAVE TO GO POLITICAL ROUTE VIA ELF/GC REP ZEIN (OR MORGHANI, FOR THAT MATTER), SEEMS USEFUL EXPLORE WHETHER US-SYRIAN RELATIONS HAVE REACHED STAGE IN WHICH DAMASCUS GOVERNMENT COULD BE ASKED ASSIST. SYRIAN ASSISTANCE MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE FORM PRESSURE ON ELF/DAMASCUS OFFICE
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TO BRING NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE TENNECO SEVEN TO EARLIEST CONCLUSION AND USE GOS INFLUENCE ON ELF/GC IN FAVOR PRESENTATION LIMITED DEMANDS WHICH TENNECO COULD MEET.

6. FOR ATHENS. PLEASE INFORM FREEMAN OF ABOVE.
WYMAN
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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